

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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ROMNEY/HEALEY ADMINISTRATION ISSUES "A CALL TO MAINTAIN OUR FOREST HERITAGE IN MASSACHUSETTS"

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) Secretary, Stephen R. Pritchard on behalf of Governor Romney and Lieutenant Governor Healey along with environmental advocates signed a new policy document "A Call to Action to Maintain our Forest Heritage in Massachusetts" today at Harvard Forest in Petersham. The new policy is based on the interests of the Administration, environmental organizations and a large group of individuals interested in forestry.

"Our forests are vital resources that must be maintained by striking a balance between a working forest and a forest reserve," said Pritchard. "Through the Forum we have created new policy for sustaining our forests. Our 5 goals created at the signing will do a great deal to improve our forests throughout the Commonwealth"

The 5 goals of the policy address many forestry issues. These include Conservation of forests in Massachusetts, sustainable economic viability of our forests, protecting the health of our forests, educating key groups about forest values and creating a balance for between a working forest and a forest conservation.

Secretary Pritchard along with Massachusetts Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, the Appalachian Mountain Club, The Kestral Trust, Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions, Forest and Wood Products Institute, Worcester County Conservation District, The Sierra Club and the Massachusetts Farm Bureau joined together to sign the policy created by the participants of the Forum.

For more information about EOEA forest policy please visit: http://www.mass.gov/envir/forest/.